

that which it is not in the power of words to do—to destroy property. As in the case of other property, so in the case of "slave property," if it be destroyed, it must be by the actual application of force and not by the promulgation of a decree. And the force is as vigorous without the decree as with it.

Where the President has no control over the law of any nation, his authority over the relation must result from actual force applied under stress of military necessity. And this actual force may be legitimately applied when or whenever it is necessary to enforce the laws. If, then, the President, instead of assuming to declare slaves free, had announced his purpose, in conducting the war within certain districts, to hold and treat all slaves as free, so that they should come under the Federal army, he would have avoided the objection which justly lies against a mere edict of emancipation. Those who love the Union better than slavery may be prepared to see slavery overthrown wherever it stands in the way of national authority, but they are not prepared to admit that the President can, by the breath of his mouth, make or unmake the law of freedom and bondage. For to declare slaves free does not lie within the province of the Executive department of the National Government on any theory of the President's duty, whether as commander-in-chief of the army and navy or as a civil ruler, nor can he consistently exercise this legislative function any more in time of war than in time of peace. But to make slaves free may not only rightly but must almost necessarily be the incident of his Executive duties in conducting large military operations on slaveholding territory.

Such were our original, and, we may add, our unchanged objections to the proclamation; but if that paper means no more than the exposition of the President's feelings, we have nothing to say against it—except that never was an expedient so ill-adjusted to the end for which it was conceived. If by the proclamation the President intended no more than to authorize our Generals to employ slaves in the military service, an army order would have done the business infinitely better, because infinitely more directly, than a proclamation "ordering and declaring" certain persons to be free, when it was foreseen that such proclamation could have no practical effect. The employment of slaves for military purposes is one thing; the theoretical emancipation of slaves in whole States where the Federal power, as well civil as military, is, for the time, inoperative and void, seems to us quite another thing; because in point of principle it involves, as we conceive, an unconstitutional assumption of power on the part of the Executive, and, in point of practical effect, it is a mere utility—serving only to create dissensions among loyal citizens, and to consolidate the power of the enemy. Those who argue in defence of the proclamation on the presumption that without it we could not avail ourselves of the services of slaves, prove nothing but their own confusion of ideas. Congress, by the act of July 17, 1862, authorized the President "to employ as many persons of African descent as he might deem necessary and proper for the suppression of this rebellion;" and this was months before any "proclamation of freedom" was issued. It is safe to say that by this edict not a single slave has been freed who would not have been otherwise freed by the progress of our arms, and that in consequence of this edict not a single negro recruit has been added to our armies who would not have been otherwise added. The inefficiency of the declaration, considered as a practical measure, may be read in what the President says in his late letter about the inefficiency of a "paper compromise." On this point he says:

"Suppose refugees from the South and peace men from the North get together in Convention and frame and promulgate a compromise embracing a restoration of the Union, in what way can that compromise be used to keep Lee's army out of Pennsylvania? Meade's army can keep Lee's army out of Pennsylvania, and I think can ultimately drive it out of existence; but no paper compromise to which the controllers of Lee's army are not agreed can affect that result. In an effort at such compromise we should waste time which the enemy would improve to our disadvantage, and that would be all. A compromise, to be effective, must be made either with those who control the rebel army, with the people first liberated from the domination of that army by the success of our army."

This is perfectly sound and sensible, but it is just as sound and sensible to say that no "paper proclamation," ordering and declaring slaves in Richmond or Mobile to be free, can possibly have any more effect than a "paper compromise to which the controllers of Lee's army are not agreed." We do not ask for a "paper compromise," which the enemy, as the President well says, "would improve to our disadvantage." And our complaint against the "paper" proclamation of freedom is that it is no whit better in this respect than a "paper compromise." We know the President sees this as clearly as we do. Utterly powerless as an engine of war on our side, the proclamation has served only to distract the counsels and paralyze the energies of loyal men, while to the enemy it has furnished a magazine of just such weapons as the insurgent leaders know how to use adroitly for the purpose of arraying all classes against the Federal Government—the slaveholder by pointing him to the predestined loss of his slave property, and the non-slaveholder by pointing him to the hateful prospect of being reduced to an equality with the emancipated slave. Thus it is that all ranks have been banded against us, and so they will remain as long as this policy lasts.

The insurgent leaders know that the proclamation robs the South of no slave who would not otherwise be freed by the progress of our arms, but because it is thus harmless to them they do not forbear to use it as a topic of adjuration and a motive of alarm. It suits their purposes only the more perfectly because it is so innocuous in point of fact and so injurious in point of principle. They can never enough confess their obligations to its authors for the "aid and comfort" it has afforded them, by giving them new motives and enlarged means for carrying on their war against the Government. And we speak advisedly when we designate the "authors" of the proclamation as being those who are entitled to the gratitude of the insurgents. For the President is not the "author" of this policy. We all know how long he struggled against its adoption, and how hesitatingly he, even at the last, gave in his reluctant adhesion to it.

We do not wonder, however, that, having once entered on this path, he now declines to retrace his steps in the eyes of the country and the world. It would be to expect too much of one who has publicly committed himself to a particular line of policy. But it is instructive to remark that the President clearly signifies, in his recent letter, that he has no sympathy with those who would continue the war for the purpose of emancipation after the declared object of the war shall have been reached in a restoration of the Union. To this effect he says:

"You say you will not fight to free negroes. Some of them seem willing to fight for you. But no matter; fight you then exclusively to save the Union. I issued the proclamation on purpose to aid you in saving the Union. Whether you will actually accept of the Union, it is not for me to say. I shall urge you to continue fighting, to this end, until you are ready to declare you will not fight to free negroes."

This is an explicit avowal of his purpose to regard the war as at an end just as soon as all resistance to the Union shall have been conquered. If he does not mean this his language is a juggle of words, and none surely will impute to him any such unworthy concealments of thought. It is obvious, therefore, that he either expects the war to last until all slaves shall have been actually freed in the process of restoring the Union, or is prepared to accept a restoration of the Union with slavery undestroyed in quarters where it has not been reached by the contact of our armies. In the former case slavery will not have been destroyed by the proclamation, but by military operations; and on the latter supposition the proclamation will be equally confessed to have fallen short of its end, leaving the student of history to wonder, in any event, why it ever was issued. But when in the clear light of what was really accomplished by it all men shall be able to see that, as a "military measure," the proclamation did nothing for the Government but very much against it, they will be only the more ready to perceive the force of the "pressure" under which this paper edict was extorted from one of the most practical and, if left free to follow his own primary convictions, one of the most sensible of Presidents.

INDEPENDENT SENTIMENTS.

The paragraphs quoted below are going the round of the conservative press under the caption of "Returning Reason." Whether they be the expression of returning reason or unchanged reason, we are equally happy to find, emanating from authority so high in the Republican ranks, opinions accordant with what we have felt it our humble duty to advance, though not, we are sorry to say, with the entire impunity which we hope will attend the utterances of the independent Republican Senator and Republican Herald. There is an old adage, founded doubtless in the experience of all countries, but expressed in the homely phrase of Yorkshire, that "one man may sometimes steal a horse with impunity while another is hung for looking over the hedge."

The following are the paragraphs to which we refer. The first is on no less an authority than Senator SHERMAN, of Ohio, who, in a speech made lately at Dayton, remarked:

"A great deal is said about the President's emancipation proclamation. My idea of it is that this war would have been prosecuted more successfully if the President had not said any thing about the negro."

The following, from the Newburyport Herald, a Republican paper, is still more significant:

"Seven-eighths of the people, all of them out of New England, except such as have freshly emigrated from here and a few red-Republican Germans, would be in favor of a restoration of the Union upon the old basis, leaving all questions of local institutions aside, and letting the punishment of the rebel leaders take place under National or State laws as they have always existed. If, therefore, the opposition should make this the grand issue, they would force the Republicans to say yes or no to it. If they assented, the North would be a unit, with the exception of the abolitionists, who would not carry more than two States for their theory of subjugation, extermination, ruin, and damnation. If, on the other hand, the radicals should get the ascendancy in the convention, and say no to the proposition for restoring the Union as it was, then they would fall into a lesser minority than did the Whig party of 1852."

While drawing on Republican sources for liberal sentiments, we will add some expressions of enlarged patriotism which we recently met with in the New York Times, a journal which, however bound by party ties, gives frequent examples of independent thought and a comprehensive nationality at variance with the narrow bigotry of the extremists of its party. We quote from a recent number of that able journal the following refreshing sentiment, forcibly and eloquently expressed:

"Every thing shows that one united, vigorous, and determined effort on the part of the Government, backed and aided by the people, will bring this horrible tragedy to a close, and give us back the free, the proud, the glorious Union of our happier and more hopeful days."

"How can any man fit to live in such a land as this look out upon the dismal scenes of death and desolation which the rebellion has caused, and the still more dismal prospects of disaster and ruin to the great cause of civil liberty and human happiness which the possibility of its success unfolds, without making every prejudice, every passion, every thought and wish of his heart subordinate to the one great end of restoring the Union, of re-establishing the full authority of the Constitution and Government of the land, and of thus renewing that grand career of national progress and prosperity? What are party schemes and party projects—what are the loftiest personal aspirations of the most ambitious—what are the cherished theories of the most enthusiastic and philanthropic men, besides the realization of this grand and beneficent practical result? Give us back the Union that our fathers died to create, and that so many thousands of their noble sons have died to save—give us back the Nation as it once existed—just and liberal in all its civil relations, lofty and imperial in all its aims."

MAINE ELECTION.

PORTLAND, SEPT. 15.—We have convenient returns from thirty-six towns which give Cony 1,031 majority against 416 last year.

So far 236 towns give Cony 45,934, Bradbury 33,877, being a majority of 15,057. The towns to be heard from will considerably increase this majority.

Full returns from York county give 300 Union majority. Franklin county gives about 5,000 majority for the Union ticket, Oxford about 1,200, and Kennebec, it is thought, 3,500. The vote is very close in Lincoln county.

By the annexed table it will be seen that the Republicans of Maine have uniformly carried the elections in that State since the year 1855. The table also shows their majority in each year:

Year.	Rep.	Opp.	Rep. Maj.
1856	69,429	51,548	17,881
1857	64,390	42,553	21,837
1858	60,702	51,820	8,882
1859	57,221	45,401	11,820
1860	69,469	53,098	16,371
1861	57,457	40,482	16,975
1862	45,534	39,509	6,025

In the last named year (1862) there were about 7,000 votes given for Col. Jameson, supported as a "war Democrat," which, added to the above 6,000, make an aggregate majority against Mr. Bradbury, the regular Democratic candidate, of more than 13,000 votes.

LATEST NEWS FROM CHARLESTON.

PROGRESS OF OUR OPERATIONS.

NEW YORK, SEPT. 16.—The steamer Mary Sanford, from Charleston Bar on the night of the 12th, has arrived. She has despatches for the Government and a mail from the fleet.

Gen. Gillmore was actively engaged erecting batteries on the upper end of Morris Island, sustaining a heavy fire from Fort Johnson and Moultrie. The rebels have two fifteen-inch guns in Fort Moultrie.

Fort Sumter is entirely silenced, but the garrison is still there and the rebel flag still flying, no attempt having been made to capture it since the repulse of the boat expedition.

The health of the fleet is good. The Monitor Patapsco has gone to Fort Royal for repair. Commander Ammen has been appointed chief of Admiral Dahlgren's staff.

TESTS OF LOYALTY.

It is very evident that Gen. Burnside's standard of "loyalty" falls far below that erected by certain self-styled expounders of civil duty, who find the highest evidence of patriotism in the unconditional support of the Administration, without regard to the merits or demerits, the advantages or disadvantages of any particular measure or line of policy which may be temporarily adopted. With these time-servers, "whatever is, (officially, is right." Principles, motives, results go for nothing in their calculus. However clear a man may be in the advocacy of a principle which comes in conflict with some administrative expedient, however pure and patriotic may be his motives, and however cogent he may be in his conviction that any particular act or course of proceeding will lead to disastrous results, he is hidden to ignore his "principles," check his impelling "motives," and close his eyes to impending "results," lest in the normal exercise of his intellectual and reasoning faculties he may seem to fail in the function of that perpetual assentation to the wisdom of rulers, which, a mark of servility in time of peace, becomes, we are told, the highest style of patriotism in a time of war.

The patriotic and loyal population of Kentucky do not so understand their duty or so interpret the rights of freemen. They canvass the measures of the Administration with only the more solicitude because issues so tremendous are suspended on the wise or unwise determinations of our rulers in this great crisis of the nation's fate. And we all know in what sense they have recently spoken, upholding the Constitution and Government of the country with a steady and unflinching hand, but for this very reason condemning any measure or policy which seems to them violative of the one or injurious to the other. And it is of such men that Gen. Burnside, in a recent speech delivered at Lexington, did not scruple to speak in terms of the highest praise and admiration, when he said that "he had found Kentucky the most loyal State in his department, and had so reported at Washington. He had found more strictly loyal men here than in Ohio or Indiana, though the latter was his birth-place."

We make no such comparisons between the "loyalty" of Kentucky and that of Ohio or Indiana, but we note this testimony of Gen. Burnside to the steady patriotism of those who are seen to be none the less faithful to the obligations of civil duty because they are unwilling to adopt the language of flatterers and parasites.

While referring to this subject we wish to remind our readers that two Conventions have recently been held by professed friends of the Administration, with "radical" proclivities, in the States of Missouri and of Kansas, and that in both of them the military policy and proceedings of the Administration in that quarter are arraigned in terms of great severity and acrimony, and a change demanded in tones of imperious defiance. We have waited some time to see whether those who are so intolerant of conservative dissent from certain acts of the Administration would have any thing to say in rebuke of such contumacious proceeding from radical sources, but thus far we have waited in vain. Comment is unnecessary.

SUSPENSION OF HABEAS CORPUS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES.

The reader will find in another part of to-day's Intelligencer a Proclamation of the President of the United States, ordering a suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus throughout the United States, as far as regards a certain class of cases. This proclamation is issued under the first section of the act of Congress approved March 3d, 1863, "relating to habeas corpus and regulating judicial proceedings in certain cases." The first section of that act is in the following terms:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, during the present rebellion, the President of the United States, whenever, in his judgment, the public safety may require it, is authorized to suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in any case throughout the United States, or any part thereof. And whenever and wherever the said privilege shall be suspended as aforesaid, no military or other officer shall be compelled, in answer to any writ of habeas corpus, to return the body of any person or persons detained by him by authority of the President, but he may, under the certificate, under oath, of the officer having charge of any one so detained that such person is detained by him as a prisoner under authority of the President, further proceedings under the writ of habeas corpus shall be suspended by the President, and he may direct all troops as he may see best to secure the end desired.

LATE SOUTHERN NEWS.

FORTRESS MONROE, SEPT. 16.—The Richmond Dispatch of to-day, received here, says:

"It is reported that there was an advance of the enemy and an engagement at Culpeper on Sunday last, and a skirmish between cavalry near Rapid-Ann Station on Monday, without any very definite result. The enemy are crossing their infantry at Kelly's Ford, and apparently contemplate an advance."

REBEL NEWS FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, SEPT. 14.—The enemy is perfecting arrangements for a permanent occupation of Morris Island, erecting lines of telegraph along the whole island, and converting Battery Wagner into a powerful work, enlarging their bomb proofs, &c. They fire upon our boats plying in the harbor from Battery Gregg.

CHARLESTON, SEPT. 15.—The enemy is building a telegraph from Tybee Island and Fort Pulaski, along the South Carolina coast, to Cumming's Point.

A magazine of one of our James Island batteries was exploded to-day, killing one lieutenant and five men. Anxiety is felt to hear from Gregg.

REBEL NEWS FROM GEORGIA.

ATLANTA, SEPT. 14.—Gen. Johnston and Forrest skirmished with the enemy near Dalton on Friday. Forrest was wounded. The Yankees have advanced to Tunnel Hill.

Gen. Wheeler had a skirmish near Lafayette the same day. The enemy, being too strong, he fell back. A general engagement is expected.

Rosecrans occupies Chattanooga, and it is reported that Burnside has joined him.

FROM THE SOUTHWEST.

MEMPHIS, SEPT. 13.—The cavalry and mounted infantry of the Sixteenth Army Corps, under the direction of Gen. Carr, at Corinth, have been active during the past week, going as far south as the Tallahatchie, and stampeding the rebel cavalry into Grenada and Okolona. Gen. Carr also scattered the rebel Rhoddy's forces in the vicinity of Jacinto and Rienzi.

The rebels are reported to have ordered all the cotton to be destroyed along the Tallahatchie, which the planters are endeavoring to get to the Memphis market. Rebel mails have been captured, with correspondence which confirms the report that Johnston is reinforcing Gregg.

A rebel force with artillery is reported to be moving in Upper Arkansas, to intercept the navigation of the Mississippi. They will receive attention.

VIRGINIA ON THE ANXIOUS SEAT.

A friend at Norfolk has kindly sent us some recent Richmond papers, including the Enquirer of the 8th instant, which contains the opening proceedings of the extra session of the Legislature, with the Message of Governor LETCHER, communicating his reasons for summoning a special session, and an exposition of the public exigencies which demanded that measure.

These exigencies are grave enough certainly, according to the Governor's admission, and are not likely to be cured by all the remedies which he recommends. The exposition serves to disclose not only the desperate condition to which the rebellion has brought affairs in Virginia, but also that the Governor occupies at present the most uneasy spot of an anxious seat. He has at no time, we presume, since Virginia suffered herself to be "dragged" into the South Carolina conspiracy, occupied a bed of roses; but now we dare say he would, if he could speak out, be ready to exclaim, with the sage of Kinderhook, "our sufferings is intolerable." Yet who can commiserate the distresses of one whose judgment was not blinded by his passions, but, knowing better, consented to drag such calamity on his country?

The debates in the Legislature, however, blaze with the language of resolution and confidence—a confidence which can scarcely be sincere, and that sort of resolution, we suppose, described by the poet as "gathered from despair."

The Enquirer itself is, according to its "vocation," very bold and very defiant, yet admits virtually that the only card left for the Army of the Potomac is another invasion of Maryland. But we question if the able commander of that army will concur in this view. His experience has taught him, we suspect, that expeditions into Maryland do not pay.

For the curiosity of our readers we quote a few passages from the Message of his Excellency of Virginia.

OPENING REMARKS.

In this crisis I have deemed it advisable to convene you in extraordinary session, in order that the freshly-chosen representatives of the people may consult and devise such measures as may be calculated to meet the existing emergency in public affairs. The war has now been in progress for more than two years and a half, and has been prosecuted against us with a ferocity unparalleled in all past struggles between contending parties. It has been conducted upon the avowed principle of attacking us either by force of arms or by visiting upon our people the horrors of famine. Hence it is that, foiled and defeated again and again upon the field of battle, they have adopted the policy of devastating our farms, destroying our crops, burning our dwellings, stealing away our property, leaving our wives and children to perish by the slow torture of starvation. It is no longer a war for the preservation of the old Union, as it was originally proclaimed to be, but it has degenerated into a war for the emancipation of the colored race, and the destruction of the Confederacy. At Washington propose to accomplish, even if the extermination of the white race, of all ages, sexes, and conditions, of the Southern Confederacy shall be the result. We have no alternative, therefore, but to defend ourselves with all the power, energy, and resources we can command. We must stand or we will fall. I am aware that there is much diversity of opinion. The difference, however, is reconcilable, if the subject is considered and discussed in a patriotic spirit.

Let a force, to consist of all able-bodied persons between the ages of sixteen and sixty, and in the Confederate service, be organized, corresponding with the force now organized in the cities of Richmond, Petersburg, and Lynchburg. Let them be regularly enrolled, formed into companies, battalions, and regiments, and officered in such manner as will best adapt them to secure efficient, intelligent, and energetic men. They should be drilled at proper intervals, so as to be well instructed in the use of the manual, and prepared for efficient service whenever the necessity shall arise.

The subject also defined what is local defense, as there is much diversity of opinion in regard to it. Some think local defense consists in remaining at home, and under no circumstances to be taken out of the city or county in which the company is organized. This, in my view, is a most mistaken and, if it is to prevail, will make defense and the organization of the militia of the State in vain. My opinion is, that if the city of Richmond can be defended more certainly fifty miles from it than immediately around it, or in it, that locality is the proper place for its defense. The local militia should be required to make the defense there. The officer charged with the defense of any particular locality is presumed to be better acquainted with the mode of defending it, and the best point for defending it successfully, and he should direct all troops as he may see best to secure the end desired.

The object of such organizations should be to give adequate protection to all parts of the Commonwealth. We must not only provide for the defense of the counties, cities, and towns, but the local forces in each must be prepared to defend them, and we must, under the law which is proposed to be passed, have authority to order others from contiguous counties to their aid and support. A force whose operations are to be confined by county, city, or town boundaries, can do but little value in checking raids, or in executing and enforcing obedience to the laws.

This organization should be made to embrace the foreign population who are located amongst us. This foreign population may be said to consist of three classes: First, those who are regularly naturalized, and who are therefore citizens embraced by the laws relating to the public defense; second, those who are domiciled amongst us, and have been living in our midst and prosecuting various branches of business, and who left their native land with no purpose or intention of returning to it; and, lastly, those who are temporarily sojourning amongst us. The first class are in the service under our military laws, and the second class should be required to go into service for public defense of the soil on which they reside. The latter class, who are sojourners, engaged in no regular business, should be exempted from military service, and in your legislation upon this subject the second class above referred to shall be clearly and distinctly embraced.

THE REPUDIATED CURRENCY.

The General Assembly, at its last session, prescribed that no Confederate issues should be received in payment of State tax, April 6th, 1863, and that the currency of the Confederate Government should be repudiated. It is calculated to impair confidence in the currency of the Confederate Government, and indeed in the currency of the United States, in the greater portion of the State. We have no State Treasury notes, and we have no State Treasury circulation; both of these descriptions of notes having been hoarded as fast as they could be collected by moneyed men. The consequence, almost, is that the currency of the Confederate Government is driven to the necessity of being repudiated, and it is in order to procure such aid as will enable them to meet the demands of the State. While it was not the intention of the Legislature to place the tax-payers in this condition, such inevitably is the effect.

The only reason I have ever heard of in justification of this legislation is, that it was designed to force persons holding this currency to fund in Confederate bonds, and thus retire it from circulation. Congress, feeling the difficulty, and desirous to compel the funding, passed an act which provided that all notes of the Confederate Government, issued prior to the 1st of December, 1862, should be fundable in eight per cent. bonds, if presented by the 23d day of April, 1863; if not presented by that day, but presented before the 1st of August, 1863, they were then fundable in seven per cent. bonds, and if not fundable at all after the 1st of August, 1863, they were then fundable in four per cent. bonds. Notes issued after that date in four per cent. bonds. Notes issued after that date in four per cent. bonds. Notes issued after that date in four per cent. bonds.

This looks to me very much like a repudiation to some extent of the obligations assumed by the Government; and

it is not, therefore, surprising that such legislation should have created uneasiness in the public mind, and aided in bringing about depreciation, and a want of confidence in the currency of the Confederate Government. Other legislation on the part of Congress has tended strongly to produce the same conclusion in the public mind. The mode in which taxes are to be assessed upon credits in certain contingencies may be mentioned as one that tends directly to the discredit of the currency. Better far would it have been to make these issues a legal tender in payment of debts, than to resort to a compulsory mode of assessing its receipt by the creditor; and while this is being done, our Legislature is urged to reject the same paper issues in payment of State taxes.

When the Government casts suspicion upon its currency, and the State Government and the banks and railroad companies do the same thing, the people may well become alarmed. The consequences cannot fail to be most disastrous. We cannot change the action of Congress, but we can remedy the errors of our own legislation, and thus show that we are disposed to uphold the credit and currency of the Confederate Government.

THE IMPRESSMENT OF SLAVES.

On the 29th of August, a slave was made upon me by the Secretary of the State for 5,340 slaves, to work upon the fortifications around Richmond. Copies of the papers are herewith submitted to your consideration; and I particularly invite your attention to the draft made upon the several counties. The apportionment upon the counties seems to be entirely arbitrary, and bearing no relation to the fact that they have not received the value as provided for in this act. In several cases the only slave capable of field labor that the owner possessed has been lost, and compensation not having been made, has been unable to supply his place. If the able commander of that army will concur in this view. His experience has taught him, we suspect, that expeditions into Maryland do not pay.

The law requires that "the value of such slaves as may escape from the Confederate authorities and not return to their owners, or be seized or be killed by the public enemy, or may, by want of due diligence on the part of the Confederate States, in any manner be lost to the owners, shall be paid by the Confederate States to the owners of such slaves; and in like manner compensation shall be made for any injury to slaves arising from the want of due diligence on the part of the authorities of the Confederate States." Many cases of peculiar hardship, arising from the loss of slaves, have been submitted to my examination, and much complaint has been made by the owners in consequence of the fact that they have not received the value as provided for in this act. In several cases the only slave capable of field labor that the owner possessed has been lost, and compensation not having been made, has been unable to supply his place. If the able commander of that army will concur in this view. His experience has taught him, we suspect, that expeditions into Maryland do not pay.

THE RAILROADS BECOMING DILAPIDATED.

I have received a communication from the President of the Central railroad, enclosing a report made to him by the superintendent on a subject of great importance to the road and to the State and the Confederacy. The demands for the transportation of passengers and freight over this and the other railroads of the State have been very great, and the roads have been severely taxed to meet them. So far they have fully met the demands; but it is apparent to any person who will take care to observe that extensive repairs are now much needed, and must be made, or they will be broken down and rendered useless. Besides, great difficulty is experienced in procuring cross-ties and the necessary supply of wood for fuel. Labor is indispensably necessary to repair the roads; and so far as legislation can aid them, I am satisfied it will be cheerfully and promptly given. The Central, Orange, and Alexandria, and the Virginia and Tennessee roads have more to apprehend from raids than any of the other roads in the State; and this apprehension makes it difficult to procure labor on reasonable terms, and to secure every where throughout the route willing to hire them on these lines, lest they may be seized and carried off, or may be induced to abandon. Under these circumstances, they very properly desire that the subject shall be brought to your attention. The papers are herewith submitted to you, and I trust your wisdom will enable you to devise some measure of relief.

THE TRADERS AND SPECULATORS.

The extortioner is still pursuing his hateful traffic and making his gains. The way to him is a God send, and he would not have it terminated for any earthly consideration. He shares none of its hardships—he suffers none of its dangers. He has perhaps hired a substitute, who, for a pecuniary consideration, agreed to be shot in his place. Such men are found every where throughout the country, and it is time something were done to put an end to their money-making business. I have been investigating this subject in the hope that I would be able to make some practical recommendation that would check it if it did not eradicate it entirely. In the first volume of the Revised Code of 1819, page 551, I find an act which was passed in 1777, entitled "An act to prevent forestalling, regrating, engrossing, and public dues," which, with very slight amendments, would, if re-enacted, check in great measure the growth of evil. I invite your attention to it, and recommend that some similar act be passed at this session.

THE DEBT OF VIRGINIA.

The finances of the State are in a highly prosperous condition—much more prosperous than could have been anticipated, under the circumstances which surround us. The numerous demands made upon the treasury have been promptly met and satisfied. Our revenue is increasing, and our expenditures are under such restrictions as may be deemed proper, and apply the proceeds arising therefrom to the payment of the State debt. We could at this time dispose of these stocks to a great advantage; and such an application of the proceeds would reduce the debt to a comparatively small sum. It is a matter of wisdom to extinguish our debt as rapidly as possible, and any measure which will produce this result will greatly increase public confidence.

The total permanent debt of the State is reported to be \$2,390,000. This sum includes interest on the public debt, and the greater portion of which is due to the United States and her citizens, \$2,730,921. It includes also the sum borrowed by us to aid in the prosecution of the war, and which, by agreement, is to be refunded to the Confederate Government, amounting to \$8,500,000. These sums, \$2,730,921 and \$8,500,000, will leave as our State debt the sum of \$2,163,788. Deduct debt, purported to be due the literary fund, which belongs to the State, and is a debt by mere fiction of law, \$2,062,691; and there remains \$240,506.97. To pay this sum we have available bank stocks belonging to the literary fund, railroad and other stocks belonging to the internal improvement fund, worth in the market, and from which can be realized at any time the State may direct, the sum of \$16,543,655. In addition, the Commonwealth owns \$240,000 of the bonds of the United States, which will readily command in the market the sum of \$3,019,125; leaving only to be provided for, \$943,317.

FROM ARKANSAS.

CINCINNATI, SEPT. 15.—The Gazette's Leavenworth despatch says that Gen. Hunt, at the last accounts, was at Fort Gibson, preparing to start for Fort Scott. In his recent campaign he marched two hundred and fifty miles in nine days, fought two battles, and cleared from the rebels one hundred thousand square miles of territory.

Refugees from the rebel conscription are coming into Hunt's lines by hundreds. Their sufferings are represented as indescribable. More than one hundred Union men have been shot and hung at Fort Smith since the rebellion began.

Supply trains are running regularly from Fort Smith to Fort Hunt.

Fort Smith has been the headquarters for operations during the winter.

A despatch to the Commercial, dated at Brownsville, Arkansas, on the 2d instant, says:

"Gen. Steele arrived here last evening. His force will come up to-day. The rebels are in strong position four miles this side of Little Rock, with a force estimated at seven thousand men and thirty to forty guns. Kirby Smith has gone to Red River, leaving Price in command. The rebel Gen. Marmaduke was wounded in the leg in the recent engagement at Bayou Metoer."

NAVIGATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

CAIRO, SEPT. 15.—Admiral Porter has just arrived in the General Lyon from below.

On the 30th of August the gunboat Champion was attacked at Morgan, while conveying the Julia, loaded with troops. Five hundred guerrillas opened fire on both boats from behind the levee. The troops passed on, while the Champion engaged the rebels and dispersed them.

Gen. Herron is after them with some troops.

The General Lyon found the steamer Ewing sunk off Plum Point, with a gunboat guarding her.

The steamer Hovey caught fire just below Columbus. The General Lyon pulled her into deep water to extinguish the flames, left a guard with her, and came up for a gunboat.

The General Lyon also brings the news that the Marine Brigade had captured at Bolivar three rebel paymasters, in whose possession was found two millions of dollars. This sum was to be used to pay the troops at Little Rock.

Gen. ROSECRANS writes to the Government that the rebel conscripts are running into his hands by hundreds, and desires to join his army. He says in his letter that Tennessee is now more loyal than his own State of Ohio.

[Republican.]

IMPORTANT FROM TENNESSEE.

CAPTURE OF CHATTANOOGA.

THE CONFEDERATES OUTFLANKED AND THEIR STRONGHOLD EVACUATED.

LOOKOUT VALLEY, TWELVE MILES SOUTH OF TRENTON, (Ga.) September 7, 1863.

The army has crossed the first ridge of mountains south of the Tennessee River Valley, just west of the Lookout range, in view and as far south as Winston, which is forty-five miles south of the river. The enemy has not yet offered the slightest resistance.

There are but three roads over Lookout Mountain between Chattanooga and Winston where an army with baggage and artillery can pass—one at Chattanooga, one at Johnson's Creek, eight miles south of Trenton, and the other at Winston. It is thought certain that Bragg, if he fights at all, will contest our passage at either of these points. Skirmishing will probably commence to-morrow. The army has endured the fatigues of marching bravely. It desires nothing better than a fight, as it is tired of racing after Bragg. If the present bold movement succeeds, Chattanooga falls of itself.